

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION
TO REVIEW AND TO ADVISE ON SERVICES
RELATED TO AT-RISK YOUTH IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Minutes for Meeting
JANUARY 29, 2016

Commissioners present: Mary Ann Cooney, Michael Adamkowski, Nicole Rodler, Martha Kane, Representative McKinney, and Judge Carroll

Appearing telephonically: Michael Skibbie and David Dionne

- 1) The meeting was called to order.
- 2) The minutes were accepted with an amendment from Mr. Skibbie.
- 3) Dan French, the Field Administrative Director, Rich Long, a Juvenile Probation/Parole Officer in Stratford County, and Amy Lambert, a Juvenile Probation/Parole Officer from Concord Family Court, appeared to give an overview of the 'hands-on' interaction of the staff with their juvenile charges.
 - a. Mr. French informed the Commission that the population at SYSC is presently 74. He indicated that the division had a case load of 1060(at the end of December, excluding youngsters at Sununu). He indicated that the census numbers were up since serving 17 year olds.
 - b. Mr. French indicated that the population at SYSC represented about 5% of the division's responsibilities. Mr. French indicated that nearly 80% of the caseload remains in the community receiving their counsel and services.
 - c. Another 15% of the population is presently in a residential setting.
 - d. He indicated that it is his experience that the presentation of a petition for a hearing is about 2-3 weeks from the filing date. Ms. Kane indicated that the length of time varies court to court and some courts are not as current.
 - e. Mr. French indicated that services for a youth are usually implemented within 1 week of the finding of true.
 - f. He reviewed the non-court involved children and families through the volunteer CHINS.
 - g. He commented that 215 youngsters had entered the system since the change in age of maturity.
- 4) Ms. Lambert is a JPPO with the Concord Circuit Court. She stressed the division's commitment to work collaboratively with schools, mental health agencies, law enforcement agencies, and the Courts. She stated that she and

other JPPO's often serve on a number of 'wrap-around' groups trying to coordinate and to facilitate proper services for the family.

- a. She informed the Commission that the Division is undergoing Trauma Screen Training wherein the JPPO's will have better insight to the youth's needs particularly in linking a youth who evidences trauma with a clinician who has the proper credentials to address that analysis.
 - b. She emphasized that it is the JPPO's presence in the communities with the families as a unit that promotes healing, focuses on efficiency of services, and results in less placements outside of the community. She indicated that it has been 1.5 years since she has had a youngster placed at Sununu.
- 5) Ms. Kane presented the forms commonly used by the parties in the juvenile system. The chair indicated that the forms would be available for review.
- 6) Rich Long described his life time commitment to the young after being a consumer of the system in his youth. He emphasized his activities in the community which have led to brainstorming at meeting the youths' needs.
 - a. He emphasized that the rise in the age of majority has created many challenges in treating the youth who is usually on the verge of independence. He is very concerned that the State lacks services which meet those needs.
- 7) Dan reviewed the options of dealing with youth and their families. He indicated that his role often combines his role as the officer and as a case manager. He described I.S.O. services. He stressed the continuing need to treat the entire family in order to be successful.
 - a. He reviewed Residential treatment including Group Home placement. He stressed the need to coordinate the youth's educational needs.
 - b. He confirmed the highest level of intervention as Sununu.
 - c. He sees success most likely in a model which stresses a continuum of services.
 - d. He concurred with Mr. Long as to the challenges of treating the 17 year old group. He also indicated that there needs to be more focus for this age group with transitional services. Those considerations must be included in the Permanency Planning.
 - e. He reconfirmed that Substance Abuse treatment is critical to the health, safety and rehabilitation of the youth.
 - f. He indicated that females are becoming a larger population in the system with very few options. The State presently has one residential setting for females.
 - g. He said that the clinical programming is evolving as the census changes.
 - h. Mental health creates additional concerns. The availability for treatment, the length of time before appointments, and the oversight of medication treatment present another series of challenges.
- 8) Mr. French was asked to create an overview of the requests for services by age as well as a review of the impact of the 17 age group on the population at Sununu and as well as to the JPPO's caseloads.

- 9) Ms. Rodler concurred on the needs of transitional services in the forms of mentorship and the needs of transportation by the youngsters.
- 10) Ms. Kane discussed the present series of assessment tools which the division presently utilizes.
- 11) There was discussion about the problems with the electronic ankle monitoring program. The Division was asked to present a review of the efforts for implementation and the present status of the program.
- 12) The Commission thanked the presenters as well as staff and cadre for the information.
- 13) The Commission then reviewed the Commission's recommendations. The Chair has the language of the present recommendations to become a part of the Commission's report.
- 14) A discussion of the ongoing calendar of meetings that shall be presented to the Commission for the balance of the year.

Submitted,

Date: February 1, 2016

Judge James M. Carroll